

Office of the Secretary
Attention Mr. Bill Katon

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To the Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

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In the Matter of:

Reply comments regarding procedures
for Reviewing Requests for Relief from
certain State and Local Regulations;

WT Docket No. 97-192

Comments on Preemption of State and
Local Zoning and Land Use Restrictions on
the Siting, Placement and Construction of
Broadcast Station Transmission Facilities;

MM Docket No. 97-182

ET Docket No. 93-62

RM -8577

Comments on the Proposals:

I must object most strenuously to the proposal for greater preemption of state and local control by parties wishing to site communications towers, as proposed in the above Docket numbers.

My name is Rachel Kane, a resident of Hardwick, Vermont since 1971. I attended high school here, and attained two college degrees from the University of Vermont (B.A. Art History; B.S. Plant and Soil Science). Since 1980 my family and I have operated a retail and mail-order plant nursery, gift shop and tearoom in the village of East Hardwick, Vt. For reasons both of business and environmental preservation, I am opposed to the current proposal of greater independence from local control sought by the Telecommunications industry.

The idea of this sort of decision-making being made in Washington, far away from the realities of the effects, and from those residents who have the fullest knowledge of the impact, is antithetical to the ideas which formed our government and constitution.

As a community, we have recently been made aware of the already sweeping powers granted to what are, after all, private companies in search of profits, by the Federal Communications Act of 1996. I consider the rules in place already biased in favor of "big money" interests, and feel that if our government is going to further promote corporations over the will, intelligence, and even the lives of the populace, then the government is due for a change, for it no longer represents the citizenry.

I live in a town which is made up of people trying to 'get by' in various ways, most people having several jobs or sideline businesses in order to make ends meet. Many of us are employed in tourist related businesses, for tourism is fast becoming the number one employment in our hitherto agricultural and forestry based economy. Those of us in business have recognized the premium which consumers from around the world place on our products, simply because these products come from unspoiled Vermont. I am aware that my own business profits from the Vermont name, as are my fellow members of our Chamber of Commerce. Our major asset in this state is the unspoiled beauty of our natural landscape, and the Vermont name is a valuable resource to us!

Surely it is not too much to ask for us to be allowed the freedom to work with the communications industries in locating the towers in areas which both work for the service provider, and work for us in being placed in what we consider the least obtrusive location.

In our particular case in Hardwick, Vt., a site is currently proposed for Buffalo Mountain. Buffalo Mountain forms the intimate background for the town, and is incorporated into the town logo which decorates everything from police cruisers to town stationery. The mountain has no road, no houses, no power lines. It is a hunting ground of long standing, not only for deer, grouse and squirrels, but for bear and wild turkeys as well. It is not the only mountain in town! Several other potential sites have been put forward by the residents and local Planning Board, but not one of them has been seriously investigated by the company in this case, Bell Atlantic Mobile. Rather they threaten our little community with a law suit if we don't give them exactly what they want. The FCC guidelines themselves set out

procedures on how to work in cooperation with a community on siting these towers, but there has been no evidence of thoughtfulness, understanding or cooperation on their part in this case.

Hardwick has long been considered a hard-luck town, with a high proportion of residents on public assistance, but the one thing we do have going for us is the natural beauty surrounding our town. We don't have much else to sell!

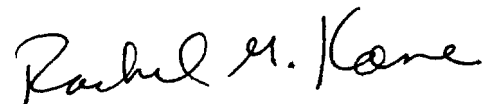
Passing tourists these past few months, when told about the proposal for a cell tower on Buffalo Mountain, where aghast at the idea. All agreed that they would be saddened by the project, and sorry to be living in a time when the government refrains from using its powers for the good of the people, instead favoring the big money interests. Rather than taking the good of all into account, and contemplating the long term picture of what our lives will be in the future, the government seems to be finding it easier to make its decisions within the hothouse atmosphere of the Beltway, so far removed from reality (and the voters) as to be pathetic.

We would reserve the right to have say in these procedures.

Signed and Dated the 24th of October, 1997

By Rachel M. Kane

P.O.Box 147, East Hardwick, Vermont 05836

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachel M. Kane". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.